

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning in the Specification at page 5 / Line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to FIG. 3, communication link 280 (FIGs. 2, 3) includes first end 320, connector 330, passive transponder 340, and a second end (not shown in FIG. 3). In certain embodiments, that second end is interconnected with a second communication link control card, such as communication link control card ~~270~~ 250 (FIG. 2).

Please replace the paragraph beginning in the Specification at page 5 / Line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Communication link control card 240 includes connector 350 and passive transponder reader ~~360~~ 260. Passive transponder 340 is disposed on first end 320, and passive transponder reader 260 is disposed on communication link control card 240, such that when connector 330 is releaseably connected with connector 350, reader 260 can read information from transponder 340.

Please replace the paragraph beginning in the Specification at page 6 / Line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

In certain embodiments, passive transponder reader ~~360~~ 260 includes an anticollision protocol which allows operation of multiple passive transponders simultaneously in the field of the reader antenna. In certain embodiments, passive transponder reader ~~360~~ 260 comprises a Philips HTRM800 long range reader module.

Please replace the paragraph beginning in the Specification at page 6 / Line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

By "passive transponder," Applicants mean a device which transfers data bi-directionally but that includes no power source. Rather, passive transponder 340 receives power by an RF link with reader ~~360~~ 260. In certain embodiments, data transmission from passive transponder 340 to reader ~~360~~ 260 uses Manchester or biphase coding and Amplitude Shift Keying modulation. Absorption modulation is used to transmit data from the transponder to the reader. The passive transponder absorbs the magnetic field which then modulates the current in the reader antenna. In certain embodiments, passive transponder 340 has an operating frequency of about 125 kHz. In certain embodiments, passive transponder 340 comprises a unique 32-bit serial number identifier. In certain embodiments, passive transponder 340 comprises a Philips HITAG 1 stick transponder.

Please replace the paragraph beginning in the Specification at page 12 / Line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to FIGs. 6A and 6B, graph 600 shows the trace of a 2.5 Gbps signal with no pre-emphasis. Graph 6B shows that same 2.5 Gbps signal with pre-emphasis. As those skilled in the art will appreciate, the signal of FIG. 6B is less likely to include one or more bit errors than the signal of FIG. 6A.